

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

BROADCAST MUSIC, INC.; RONDOR  
MUSIC INTERNATIONAL, INC. d/b/a  
IRVING MUSIC; BOY MEETS GIRL MUSIC;  
EMI BLACKWOOD MUSIC, INC.; SONG A  
TRON MUSIC; SONGS OF UNIVERSAL,  
INC.; SALLY RUTH ESTHER PUBLISHING  
INC.; BMG RIGHTS MANAGEMENT (US)  
LLC d/b/a BMG BUMBLEBEE,

Plaintiffs,

v.

IN LINE RESTAURANT CORP. d/b/a BEACH  
BAR/SHUCKERS LOBSTER & CLAM BAR;  
SCOTT W. SPANBURGH; TERENCE P.  
BEGLANE; and THOMAS E. HANGARTER,  
each individually,

Defendants.

Case No. 18-cv-1214

**COMPLAINT**

Plaintiffs, by their undersigned attorneys, for their Complaint against Defendants In Line Restaurant Corp. d/b/a Beach Bar/Shuckers Lobster & Clam Bar, Scott W. Spanburgh, Terence P. Beglane, and Thomas E. Hangarter (collectively, “Defendants”), allege as follows (on knowledge as to Plaintiffs; otherwise on information and belief):

**JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

1. This is an action for copyright infringement under the United States Copyright Act of 1976, as amended, 17 U.S.C. §§101 et seq. (the “Copyright Act”). This Court has jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338(a).

2. Venue is proper in this judicial district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b) and 1400(a).

### **THE PARTIES**

3. Plaintiff Broadcast Music, Inc. (“BMI”) is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware. BMI’s principal place of business is 7 World Trade Center, 250 Greenwich Street, New York, New York 10007. BMI has been granted the right to license the public performance rights in approximately 13 million copyrighted musical compositions (the “BMI Repertoire”), including those which are alleged herein to have been infringed.

4. The Plaintiffs other than BMI are the owners of the copyrights in the musical compositions, which are the subject of this lawsuit. All Plaintiffs are joined pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 17(a) and 19(a).

5. Plaintiff Rondor Music International, Inc. is a corporation doing business as Irving Music. This Plaintiff is the copyright owner of at least one of the songs in this matter.

6. Plaintiff Boy Meets Girl Music is a partnership owned by Shannon Rubicam and George Robert Merrill. This Plaintiff is the copyright owner of at least one of the songs in this matter.

7. Plaintiff EMI Blackwood Music, Inc. is a corporation. This Plaintiff is the copyright owner of at least one of the songs in this matter.

8. Plaintiff Song A Tron Music is a partnership owned by Allen George and Fred McFarlane. This Plaintiff is the copyright owner of at least one of the songs in this matter.

9. Plaintiff Songs of Universal, Inc. is a corporation. This Plaintiff is the copyright owner of at least one of the songs in this matter.

10. Plaintiff Sally Ruth Esther Publishing, Inc. is a corporation. This Plaintiff is the copyright owner of at least one of the songs in this matter.

11. Plaintiff BMG Rights Management (US) LLC is a limited liability company doing business as BMG Bumblebee. This Plaintiff is the copyright owner of at least one of the songs in this matter.

12. Defendant In Line Restaurant Corp. is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of New York, that operates, maintains, and controls an establishment known as Beach Bar/Shuckers Lobster & Clam Bar (the “Establishment”), located at 58 Foster Avenue, Hampton Bays, New York 11946, in this district.

13. In connection with the operation of the Establishment, Defendant In Line Restaurant Corp. publicly performs musical compositions and/or causes musical compositions to be publicly performed.

14. Defendant In Line Restaurant Corp. has a direct financial interest in the Establishment.

15. Defendant Scott W. Spanburgh is the Chief Executive Officer of Defendant In Line Restaurant Corp. with responsibility for the operation and management of that corporation and the Establishment.

16. Defendant Scott W. Spanburgh has the right and ability to supervise the activities of Defendant In Line Restaurant Corp. and a direct financial interest in that corporation and the Establishment.

17. Defendant Terence P. Beglane is a Principal of Defendant In Line Restaurant Corp. with responsibility for the operation and management of that corporation and the Establishment.

18. Defendant Terence P. Beglane has the right and ability to supervise the activities of Defendant In Line Restaurant Corp. and a direct financial interest in that corporation and the Establishment.

19. Defendant Thomas E. Hangarter is a Principal of Defendant In Line Restaurant Corp. with responsibility for the operation and management of that corporation and the Establishment.

20. Defendant Thomas E. Hangarter has the right and ability to supervise the activities of Defendant In Line Restaurant Corp. and a direct financial interest in that corporation and the Establishment.

### **CLAIMS OF COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT**

21. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege each of the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 20.

22. Since July 2009, BMI has reached out to Defendants over 100 times, by phone, in-person visits, mail, and email, in an effort to educate Defendants as to their obligations under the Copyright Act with respect to the necessity of purchasing a license for the public performance of musical compositions in the BMI repertoire. Included in the letters were Cease and Desist Notices, providing Defendants with formal notice that they must immediately cease all use of BMI-licensed music in the Establishment.

23. Plaintiffs allege three (3) claims of willful copyright infringement, based upon Defendants' unauthorized public performance of musical compositions from the BMI Repertoire. All of the claims for copyright infringement joined in this Complaint are governed by the same legal rules and involve similar facts. Joinder of these claims will promote the convenient administration of justice and will avoid a multiplicity of separate, similar actions against Defendants.

24. Annexed to this Complaint as a schedule (the "Schedule") and incorporated herein is a list identifying some of the many musical compositions whose copyrights were infringed by

Defendants. The Schedule contains information on the three (3) claims of copyright infringement at issue in this action. Each numbered claim has the following eight lines of information (all references to “Lines” are lines on the Schedule): Line 1 providing the claim number; Line 2 listing the title of the musical composition related to that claim; Line 3 identifying the writer(s) of the musical composition; Line 4 identifying the publisher(s) of the musical composition and the plaintiff(s) in this action pursuing the claim at issue; Line 5 providing the date on which the copyright registration was issued for the musical composition; Line 6 indicating the copyright registration number(s) for the musical composition; Line 7 showing the date(s) of infringement; and Line 8 identifying the Establishment where the infringement occurred.

25. For each work identified on the Schedule, the person(s) named on Line 3 was the creator of that musical composition.

26. For each work identified on the Schedule, on or about the date(s) indicated on Line 5, the publisher(s) named on Line 4 (including any predecessors in interest), complied in all respects with the requirements of the Copyright Act and received from the Register of Copyrights Certificates of Registration bearing the number(s) listed on Line 6.

27. For each work identified on the Schedule, on the date(s) listed on Line 7, Plaintiff BMI was (and still is) the licensor of the public performance rights in the musical composition identified on Line 2. For each work identified on the Schedule, on the date(s) listed on Line 7, the Plaintiff(s) listed on Line 4 was (and still is) the owner of the copyright in the respective musical composition listed on Line 2.

28. For each work identified on the Schedule, on the date(s) listed on Line 7, Defendants publicly performed and/or caused to be publicly performed at the Establishment the musical composition identified on Line 2 without a license or permission to do so. Thus,

Defendants have committed copyright infringement.

29. The specific acts of copyright infringement alleged in the Complaint, as well as Defendants' entire course of conduct, have caused and are causing Plaintiffs great and incalculable damage. By continuing to provide unauthorized public performances of works in the BMI Repertoire at the Establishment, Defendants threaten to continue committing copyright infringement. Unless this Court restrains Defendants from committing further acts of copyright infringement, Plaintiffs will suffer irreparable injury for which they have no adequate remedy at law.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray that:

- (I) Defendants, their agents, servants, employees, and all persons acting under their permission and authority, be enjoined and restrained from infringing, in any manner, the copyrighted musical compositions licensed by BMI, pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 502;
- (II) Defendants be ordered to pay statutory damages, pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 504(c);
- (III) Defendants be ordered to pay costs, including a reasonable attorney's fee, pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 505; and
- (IV) Plaintiffs have such other and further relief as is just and equitable.

Dated: February 23, 2018  
New York, New York

**GIBBONS P.C.**

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## *Schedule*

Line 1	Claim No.	1
Line 2	Musical Composition	I Wanna Dance With Somebody Who Loves Me a/k/a Somebody Who Loves Me
Line 3	Writer(s)	George Merrill; Shannon Rubicam
Line 4	Publisher Plaintiff(s)	Rondor Music International, Inc. d/b/a Irving Music; Shannon Rubicam and George Robert Merrill, a partnership d/b/a Boy Meets Girl Music
Line 5	Date(s) of Registration	11/10/86          6/15/87 6/30/87
Line 6	Registration No(s).	PAu 901-755          PA 343-550 PAu 985-995
Line 7	Date(s) of Infringement	07/29/16
Line 8	Place of Infringement	Beach Bar/Shuckers Lobster & Clam Bar

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Line 1	Claim No.	2
Line 2	Musical Composition	Show Me Love
Line 3	Writer(s)	Allen George; Fred Mc Farlane
Line 4	Publisher Plaintiff(s)	EMI Blackwood Music, Inc.; Allen George and Fred Mc Farlane, a partnership d/b/a Song A Tron Music
Line 5	Date(s) of Registration	3/24/95
Line 6	Registration No(s).	PA 752-568
Line 7	Date(s) of Infringement	07/29/16
Line 8	Place of Infringement	Beach Bar/Shuckers Lobster & Clam Bar

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Line 1	Claim No.	3
Line 2	Musical Composition	We Fly High
Line 3	Writer(s)	Joseph Jones p/k/a Jim Jones; Zukhan Bey
Line 4	Publisher Plaintiff(s)	Songs Of Universal Inc.; Sally Ruth Esther Publishing Inc.; BMG Rights Management (US) LLC d/b/a BMG Bumblebee
Line 5	Date(s) of Registration	9/26/07
Line 6	Registration No(s).	PA 1-640-366
Line 7	Date(s) of Infringement	07/30/16
Line 8	Place of Infringement	Beach Bar/Shuckers Lobster & Clam Bar

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